

## (12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
15 July 2004 (15.07.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/057969 A1**

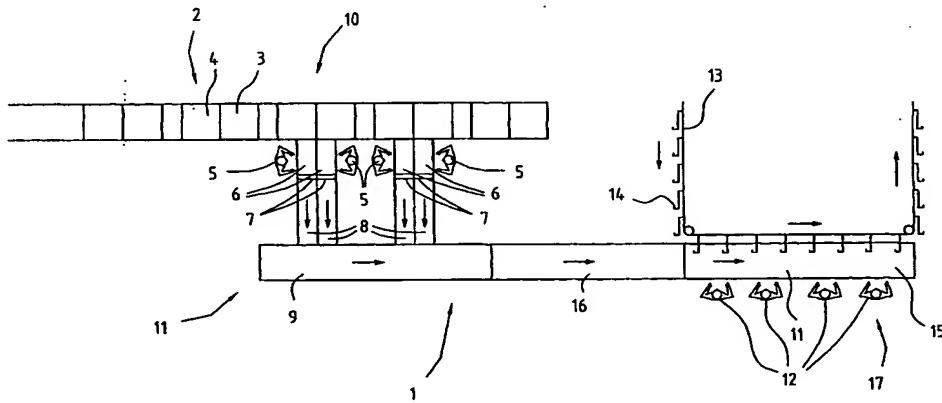
- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **A22C 21/00**,  
A22B 7/00, B65G 47/31
- (21) International Application Number:  
**PCT/NL2003/000947**
- (22) International Filing Date:  
30 December 2003 (30.12.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: **Dutch**
- (26) Publication Language: **English**
- (30) Priority Data:  
1022289 31 December 2002 (31.12.2002) NL  
1023820 4 July 2003 (04.07.2003) NL
- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **STORK PMT B.V. [NL/NL]**; 3, Handelstraat, NL-5831 AV Boxmeer (NL).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **GERRITS, Johannes, Gerardus, Maria [NL/NL]**; 15, Hoogeindsestraat, NL-5447 PD Rijkevoort (NL). **KUSTERS, Wilhelmus, Martinus [NL/NL]**; 28, Smaldersestraat, NL-5298 NP Liempde (NL). **VAN DEN NIEUWELAAR, Adrianus, Josephes [NL/NL]**; 33, Den Hoek, NL-5421 XG Gemert (NL).
- (74) Agent: **MERTENS, H., V.; Exter Polak & Charlouis B.V., P.O. Box 3241, NL-2280 GE Rijswijk (NL).**
- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Published:**

— with international search report

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: CONVERTING A FLUCTUATING STREAM OF POULTRY INTO A UNIFORM STREAM OF POULTRY



WO 2004/057969 A1

(57) Abstract: In poultry slaughterhouses, birds arrive in batches. Birds are delivered in holders (2), are unloaded and are connected to carriers (14). The birds are then introduced into the slaughterhouse and slaughtered, after which further processing take place. The supply is variable over the course of time. However, the slaughtering is a continuous process. The present invention evens out the supply variability, so that a uniform stream of birds which is well matched to the continuous process in the slaughterhouse is obtained. A conveyor device (8, 9) having a controllable speed is positioned between the point at which the birds are unloaded from the holders and the point at which the birds are connected to a carrier. The speed of this conveyor device is controlled in such a manner that the number of birds which leaves the conveyor device is substantially uniform. It is also possible to control the speed of unloading. It is also possible for measurements to be performed at various points in the system and for these measurements to be fed back to the controllable conveyor device. In this way it is then possible to automatically generate a uniform stream of birds.